

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Chair Brandtjen called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Janel Brandtjen (Chair), Jim Jeskewitz, Peter Wolff, and Kathleen Cummings. Wolff left the meeting at 2:28 p.m. and Jim Dwyer arrived for quorum purposes. Wolff returned at 2:58 p.m. and Dwyer left the meeting. **Absent:** Mike Inda, Pauline Jaske and Gilbert Yerke.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth, Adolescent & Family Services Manager Pete Slesar, Corporation Counsel Tom Farley, Administrative Services Manager Russ Kutz, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Don Maurer, Juvenile Services Supervisor Todd McDonnell, Family Services Supervisors Jeanette Braun and Jeri Shryock, Juvenile Center Coordinator Michael Sturdevant, and Senior Financial Analysts Clara Daniels and Bill Duckwitz. Recorded by Mary Pedersen, County Board Office.

Approve Minutes of 3-10-11

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Cummings to approve the minutes of March 10. Motion carried 4-0.

Announcements

Cummings said she used the National Association of Counties (NACo) prescription drug card and saved almost \$18 on two prescriptions.

Brandtjen said the Health & Human Services Board's annual public hearing will be held April 21 (7:00 p.m.) at the Expo Center Arena.

Meeting Approvals

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Cummings to approve attendance for those committee members that attend the April 21 public hearing. Motion carried 4-0.

Schedule Next Meeting Dates

- May 12 (committee only)

Educational Overview of the Adolescent & Family Division

Slesar, McDonnell, Shryock, Sturdevant, and Braun were present to discuss this item as outlined in various handouts. Juvenile Services Supervisor Terry Cook was unable to attend today. Slesar said the cumulative experience of these five staff members total 126 years (not including Slesar). In 2010, there were 414 delinquency intakes, 129 truancy intakes, and 538 Juvenile Center admissions. Of the 678 families receiving ongoing services by this division, 665 had their children remain in their own homes – 98.08%. Statistics also show that 70.7% did not reoffend and 75% improved school attendance.

There are a total of 67.61 FTE staff members in this division which consists of Custody & Court Intake Services, Ongoing Delinquency Services, Ongoing Truancy/Uncontrollable/Runaway Services, and the Juvenile Center.

Provided and purchased services include Aggression Placement Training, Alternate Care, Anger Management Strategies for Teens, Better Men Group, Community Day Treatment, Community Services/Restitution Program, Correctional Placement, Drug Testing, Electronic Monitoring, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, Families Intact Treatment Team, Family Partnerships Initiative, Heartmath Stress Relief System, Homebound Detention, Intensive Aftercare, Intensive Supervision, Juvenile Center, Lauer Center Alternative School and Educational Support Program, Mediation Program, Teen Court, Teen Life Skills, Youth To Discover Mentor Program, etc.

Staff gave real life examples from previous cases and success stories.

Update on the Juvenile Center Study Committee

Farley advised this was an objective in the 2011 budget: to work with budget staff to explore, study and develop a report with recommendations on cost effective alternatives and options for the Juvenile Center placements and uses. This may include collaboration and cooperative agreements with other counties. Farley said the cost to run the Juvenile Center in 2000 was \$1.4 million and by 2011 the cost was \$1.9 million. The days of care had gone from 6,651 to 3,600; the average Shelter Care stay had gone from 6.2 to 4.6 days; the average Secure Detention stay had gone from 6.5 to 5.8 days; and the average cost for a day of care went from \$215 to \$545. Farley noted we are charging \$125 per day for children who come from counties outside of Waukesha. However, not many counties use our service because they can find it elsewhere at a lesser cost. Farley indicated the study committee will analyze various scenarios and determine fiscal and programmatic impacts – both pro and con. Contracting out or having a contract agency run the program(s) at our facility are very possible.

Cummings said the County's Juvenile Center has an outstanding reputation and she expressed concerns with contracting out with an outside agency. She referred to Ethan Allen and those who felt it would not benefit families if they had to travel long distances to see their children. She would rather see other counties utilize our Juvenile Center services. Brandtjen did not believe three or four meetings for an hour at a time gave the study committee enough time to study an issue of this magnitude. She also spoke of the Center's success and feels we need a comprehensive financial assessment including costs by the Sheriff's Department to transport children to other counties. Also, because we are dealing with minors, who would ultimately be responsible if there was an incident involving a contractor? Farley said contracts would be written to address County liability issues. Brandtjen asked that the committee be notified of study committee meeting dates/times and be provided any meeting minutes.

To answer Cummings' question, Farley said study committee members include him, Sturdevant, Slesar, McDonnell, Kutz, Bill Duckwitz, Judge Bohren, a public defender, Karen Ruf, Keith Swartz, Ellen Nowak, and Ted Szczupakiewicz. Spaeth noted she attends the meetings but is not a member. Cummings felt it was vital that a County Board staff member be part of the study committee.

Wolff left the meeting at 2:28 p.m. Jim Dwyer arrived for quorum purposes.

Summary of Major Impacts of Proposed State Budget

Maurer distributed copies of "Major Budget Items Affecting WCDHHS in Proposed State Budget." Maurer said there are three major state budget cuts impacting Health & Human Services. This includes cuts to Food Share, Medical Assistance/Badger Care, and State capture of local levy via Community Aids. The estimated impact is \$1.275 million. Staff are estimating a 10% reduction (to begin July 1, 2011) in Youth Aids with an estimated impact of \$389,000. A freeze on Family Care enrollment as of June 20, 2011 will result in an estimated loss of \$200,000 to \$500,000. Maurer noted that Family Care has worked very well. These represent the most significant items in the proposed State of Wisconsin budget as it relates to Health & Human Services. All remain subject to change via the legislative process over the next several months. Not yet known are potential federal and state funding impacts arising from recently proposed federal budget agreements.

Dwyer asked if these cuts could force clients into more expensive programs. Maurer said yes, very likely. The most expensive is the institute which costs more than \$900 per day, per client.

Wolff returned at 2:58 p.m. and Dwyer left the meeting.

Spaeth noted the County will lose state and federal matching dollars for Child Support.

Report on Human Services Lobbying Day

Spaeth advised a group including her, Schuler, Maurer, Brandtjen, and Dennis Farrell went to the State Capital last week where they met with our state legislators to express budget concerns. The four new freshman legislators seemed to appreciate the educational aspect of the visit while the veteran legislators seemed to appreciate the updates. Most of the legislators were genuinely interested in what the group had to say.

State Legislative Update

Spaeth said the Executive Committee will meet with our State legislators on May 2 to go over our budget priorities. This committee is welcome to attend. Solutions and alternatives will be discussed for programs such as Income Maintenance administration, recycling, and transportation.

MOTION: Cummings moved, second by Jeskewitz to adjourn at 3:29 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Cummings
Secretary